

V. REMARKS

Claim 22 is rejected under 35 USC 102 (b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,626,913 to Tomoeda et al. The claim is canceled and, as a result, the rejection as applied thereto is now moot.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 23 is rejected under 35 USC 102 (b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0076658 to Matsushita et al. The claim is canceled and, as a result, the rejection as applied thereto is now moot.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 24, 26, 27 and 30 are rejected under 35 USC 103 (a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0076658 to Matsushita et al. in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0123011 to Kawano et al.

The claims are canceled and, as a result, the rejection as applied thereto is now moot.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 25 is rejected under 35 USC 103 (a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,371,667 to Kitano et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,300,043 to Konishi et al.

The claim is canceled and, as a result, the rejection as applied thereto is now moot.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 28 and 29 are rejected under 35 USC 103 (a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0076658 to Matsushita et al. in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/000 3964 to Kitano et al.

The claims are canceled and, as a result, the rejection as applied thereto is now moot.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

It is respectfully submitted that newly-added claims 31-38 include features not shown in the applied art.

Further, Applicants assert that there are also reasons other than those set forth above why the pending claims are patentable. Applicants hereby reserve the right to submit those other reasons and to argue for the patentability of claims not explicitly addressed herein in future papers.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same, the

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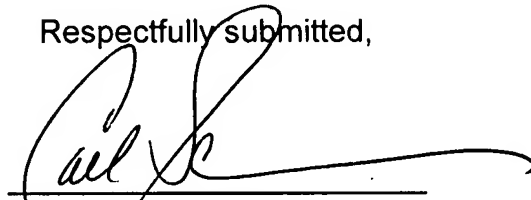
Application No. 10/735,926

Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: December 3, 2007.

By:


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Enclosure(s): Amendment Transmittal
Request for Continued Examination

DC297349.DOC